

October 16, 2000

Dear Sir/Madam:

9549 '00 OCT 24 P2:19

I am writing you today on behalf of downed farm animals. I urge you to grant the Farm Sanctuary's petition which would prohibit the the slaughter of downed animals. Docket number 98P-0151/CPI. Each year farm animals enter the U.S. food chain that are either too sick or too injured to even stand up. These helpless creatures are usually pulled with chains or pushed with tractors to slaughter. Inhumane methods such as these, further injure the animals, ranging from bruises to broken bones. Experts in the industry agree that 90% of these atrocities can be prevented with better animal care and handling.

In addition to the callous indifference afforded these animals, there are also risks to human health as well. There is some evidence linking bacterial contamination to downed animals, including a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

I am unable to find hard numbers but I am told that the percentage of downed animals is small. Given that their numbers are small, prohibiting their slaughter should not cause undue economic hardship. Prohibiting their slaughter can only only benefit human health and ease the misery of farm animals.

Sadly, farm animals are exempt from many of the humane laws enjoyed by our companion animals. Seems quite unfair that one species of animal is granted a favorable status while another species, through no fault of its own, is not even afforded the most basic humane consideration. Granting this petition would be a great first step toward correcting this injustice. Mohandas Gandhi once said, the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. If this is true, I shudder to think what our treatment of farm animals says about America.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you will please grant this petition.

Sincerely,

Dawn James

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